

From the Editor

FOR many of us, our earliest childhood memories include standing on a corner watching a Veterans Day parade. There would be the town mayor in a convertible from the local dealership (complete with motorcycle escort), the high school marching band and a color guard from the junior ROTC detachment. And then there were the veterans.

They were the people who had done their nation's deeds, and it was their day. They were the people who were there — at the Somme, on Corregidor, at Inch'on, at LZ X-ray.

They would march, wearing medals, uniforms and campaign hats, and when the parade was over they would tell stories to the children — the fascinating stories you never read about in history books. And, tragically, when the storytellers passed away, they took their stories with them.

Fortunately, this no longer has to be the case. Join Heike Hasenauer for a tour of the Veterans History Project to see how the Library of Congress is trying to preserve these veterans' stories for posterity.

Veterans made history, so they should be history.

John C. Suttle

Great Issue

I JUST looked through the September issue of "Soldiers." You should all go ahead and retire now, because you can't possibly top that issue!

Wonderful, gorgeous, eye-grabbing art design and layout.

*Stuart Henderson
Via e-mail*

Soldier Show Flag

THANK you for your wonderful August article on the U.S. Army Soldier Show. It was a very accurate representation of the tour. I really like the sidebars about the technical part of the show and the soldiers' involvement. That is an aspect that is often overlooked by the media.

I know your readers have eagle eyes and find even the smallest error when it comes to displaying the American flag properly. One of the photos used in the article shows the cast in the finale with the American flag in the background. The flag is shown with the stars upside down.

We were unaware of the error when the flag was produced for us. It was not until we got more than halfway through the tour that someone in the audience pointed out this error. We have since fixed the flag and it is now being displayed properly.

Thank you for producing such a wonderful magazine.

*Brian D. Essad
Army Entertainment Division
via e-mail*

Wrong Unit

YOUR July article "The Other Afghan Campaign" provided great coverage of the efforts of the Coalition Joint Civil-Military

Perfect Poster

I JUST want to tell you how much I like the "Army of One" poster in the September issue.

I'm sure there will be some out there who will complain because some of the soldiers in the photo don't have their Kevlar on, but they'll get over it.

The poster makes those soldiers look larger than life — confident, fearless and ready. It looks like a poster for a movie, and is just the kind of "marketing" we need.

Thanks for the great job you all are doing!

*MAJ Scott D. Ross, U.S. Transportation Command
via e-mail*

I'D like to request two boxes of your excellent poster. In fact, we'd be glad to get three boxes, if you can spare them.

We here at the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion — Los Angeles would like to put at least one poster in each of our recruiting stations, as well as presenting the posters to dignitaries.

Please know that your poster is an effective recruiting tool, one that our battalion appreciates. And thanks for a great job.

*Mark G. Wonders
via e-mail*

Thanks for the kind words about the "Army of One" poster. The photo was coordinated by Photo Editor SSG Alberto Betancourt and shot in Afghanistan by SFC William A. Jones, and the poster was designed by Associate Art Director Paul Crank.

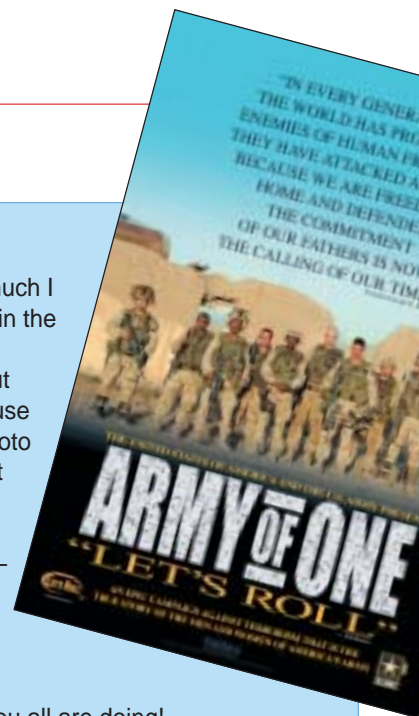
Service Flag

AFTER reading "The Return of the Service Flag" in the July issue, I began wondering why in-laws are left out of the list of people eligible to fly the flag.

In today's military, spouses and members of extended families are just as important as the service members themselves. Why not allow in-laws and others to also display this flag with pride?

*LTC James J. Gardon
via e-mail*

*SFC Richard Everett
via e-mail*



Our two sons followed their father's example and chose military careers — one in the Army, and the other in the Air Force.

We proudly display a Service Flag with two blue stars to show support of their re-enlistments, dedication and patriotism.

I urge all Americans who are eligible to purchase and display a Service Flag during this difficult time of war and hostilities.

*Joan M. Stehn
Highland Falls, N.Y.*

I WAS reading your July issue and ran across the article "The Return of the Service Flag."

I didn't even know about the flag until I was at a Legion meeting and the people were talking about it. I asked a few questions. Then in June I received the flag.

I'm very proud to display it in my window. Thanks for the article.

*SSG Kim Banes
Marshalltown, Iowa*

I WAS pleasantly surprised to find my company (or at least its Web site) mentioned in the July article on the Service Flag.

One interesting point concerning full-sized Service Flags: Regulations call for an aspect ratio of 10:19, which is the same as the ratio for the U.S. flag. However, few commercially available U.S. flags are made according to regulation — the most popular size is the 3 foot by 5 foot flag.

Since etiquette prohibits concurrently flying a flag larger than the US flag, but to satisfy both the letter and spirit of the Army regulations concerning the service flag, our outdoor Service Flags are made 32

inches by 60 inches, thus allowing them to be flown, if desired, beneath the U.S. flag on the same pole.

*Richard R. Gideon
via e-mail*

New Medals

IN reading Soldiers over the last few months I have noticed the continuing, back-and-forth discussions about awarding new medals in honor of all the people who lost their lives on Sep. 11, 2001, and in Operation Enduring Freedom.

It certainly makes sense to award the National Defense Service Medal, since it seems to fit exactly what we are doing for the defense of the American people, but what about the

other medals that symbolize equally important things — the Armed Forces Service Medal, The Humanitarian Service Medal, and the Army occupation medals?

U.S. military personnel are putting their lives on the line every single day to protect and ensure freedom at home and around the world. And at the same time we are providing humanitarian aid by helping move food, supplies and equipment into stricken areas around the globe.

Why, then, shouldn't we be recognized for our military and humanitarian efforts on behalf of our own nation and the world?

*Name Withheld by Request
via e-mail*

Soldiers is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers**, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581, or e-mail: soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.



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